

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ( ISO ) R

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DRAFTED BY ARA/LA:DCOX

APPROVED BY ARA :HARYAN

S/S-O:M. TANNER

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P 230126Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 120689

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SAN JOSE 2065 ACTION SECSTATE DATED 21 MAY 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T SAN JOSE 2065

STADIS

EXDIS

FOR ARA/CEN LAZARFROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, CS

SUBJECT: CONTINUED TALK OF A COUP: CARBINES

REF: STATE 116936

1. PENDING RECEIPT OF MESSAGE MENTIONED YOUR PARAGRAPH ONE, I SEE NO REASON WHY USG SHOULD NOT SELL CARBINES TO GOCR ON AS IS/WHERE IS BASIS DELIVERED IN EUROPE. GOCR WOULD HAVE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARRANGING SHIPMENT TO COSTA RICA. OF COURSE, I TAKE FOR GRANTED THAT WE WOULD PROMPTLY RELEASE FULL DETAILS OF TRANSACTION IF LATER

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SITUATION CALLED FOR THAT.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE "SPECULATIVE SCENARIO" WHICH YOU OUTLINE, I OF COURSE CANNOT SAY CATEGORICALLY THAT IT IS NOT PLAUSIBLE, AND INDEED THERE ARE INTRICATE PERSONAL AND POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVED THE FINAL EVOLUTION OF WHICH CANNOT FULLY BE FORESEEN, BUT IT IS MY PRESENT JUDGMENT THAT ODUBER IS NOT IN CAHOOTS WITH FIGUERES IN PLOTTING A PRE-EMPTIVE COUP. I BELIEVE ESSENTIALLY THAT HE HAS BEEN REASONABLY OPEN AND DIRECT WITH ME ON THIS MATTER, AND THAT HIS BASIC MOTIVE IS THE OBVIOUS ONE TO ENLIST OUR SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT IF THINGS GET OUT OF HAND. INCLUDED IN THAT "SUPPORT" RIGHT NOW IS THE MATTER OF THE CARBINES, AND I BELIEVE WE SHOULD PROCEED TO DELIVER THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. WHILE IT IS CORRECT THAT PEPE FIGUERES IS THE PRIME THREAT AT PRESENT TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT HERE, AND THAT WITHOUT HIS CJME AND LEADERSHIP IT IS QUESTIONABLE THAT A COUP COULD BE BROUGHT OFF, THERE ARE OTHER ACTORS ON BOTH THE LEFT AND RIGHT WHO ARE CAPABLE AND DISPOSED TO SEEK TO EMBARRASS OR EVEN THREATEN THE GOVERNMENT WITH ACTS OF VIOLENCE TO SERVE THEIR PARTICULAR BUG-A-BOOS. THE GOVERNMENT IS LEGITIMATELY CONCERNED ABOUT THESE THREATS TO PUBLIC SECURITY AND ITS OWN IMAGE, AND ALSO ABOUT THE POOR CONDITION AND INSUFFICIENT QUANTITY OF THE ARMS INVENTORY OF THE PUBLIC FORCES. THE CARBINES AND OTHER ITEMS REQUESTED ARE INTENDED TO HELP CORRECT THOSE SHORTFALLS. GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF ARMS ALREADY WIDESPREAD IN THIS COUNTRY BY ALL REPORTS -- MANY NO DOUBT IN THE HANDS OF THOSE INCLUDING FIGUERES WHO MIGHT THREATEN THE GOVERNMENT -- I SEE NO ADEQUATE JUSTIFICATION FOR WITHHOLDING ASSISTANCE TO THE LEGITIMATE, CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITIES.

4. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THERE ARE ELEMENTS IN BOTH GUARDS THAT ARE PERSONALLY CLOSE TO FIGUERES. HOWEVER, MY BEST JUDGMENT IS THAT THE PREPONDERANCE OF THE KEY CIVIL GUARD IS LOYAL TO ITS PRESENT LEADERSHIP WHICH IN TURN IS LOYAL TO ODUBER. THE LATTER, AND MINISTER CHARPENTIER, ARE CONFIDENT OF THESE FORCAF AND I BELIEVE WE MUST CREDIT THEM WITH REASONABLY GOOD JUDGMENT IN THIS MATTER.

5. A LETTER WILL FOLLOW NEXT WEEK WITH FULLER RELECTIONS  
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ON YOU LETTER OF MAY 8, 1975.

TODMAN  
UNQUOTE  
INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MILITARY SALES, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
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**TAGS:** PINS, MASS, CS, (FIGUERES FERRER, JOSE), (ODUBER QUIROS, DANIEL)  
**To:** TOKYO  
**Type:** TE  
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